

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy and Leader Schumer:

The novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, has created an unprecedented and rapidly advancing crisis. As Members of the California Democratic Delegation, we thank you for your dedicated leadership to the country and to California during these trying times, in delivering the bipartisan \$8.3 billion emergency funding package and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

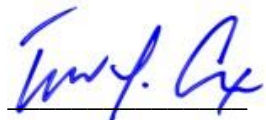
We write to request full and fair consideration of the State of California's request for federal support in the coming stimulus package, which were detailed by Governor Newsom in his letter, dated March 19, 2020. It is absolutely vital that Congress work in tandem with state and local leaders, especially those states that have been hardest hit and that are undertaking substantial measures. When our constituents' needs are met – California being one of the epicenters of the outbreak – the entire country benefits.

The spread of COVID-19, as you are well-aware, poses an enormous threat to California's existing safety net and to working families, a threat which we are already seeing realized. The coming surge of patients will overwhelm California's health care systems—rural and urban. California businesses are struggling to keep their doors open and their workers employed, and the extreme curtailment of consumer spending resulting from public health directives to isolate at home is placing a disproportionate burden on small businesses. Nearly all public schools in California's 1,000 school districts have been closed to traditional classroom learning, and school districts are quickly trying to adapt to deliver quality alternative/on-line programs. Many families still rely on these schools to provide nutritional meals. Local transit agencies, rail systems, airport and port authorities across the state are seeing sharp curtailment of ridership and revenue that will have an immediate impact on both employment and commerce.

For all these reasons, we urge you to support Governor Newsom's requests. It is vital that the stimulus packages continue to provide increased federal funding for public health emergency preparedness and response for the state of California and its local entities, including counties, hospitals, and health systems. As detailed in the letter, California and its 58 counties will need additional funding to continue to provide necessary support for individuals and families confronting school closures, curtailed work hours, and job loss.

The challenges we face as elected leaders in this crisis are immense, but only by coordinating a bold response will we be able to take the necessary and immediate steps to address our economic and societal needs. Your leadership is critical to accomplish this, and our constituents are grateful. The magnitude of the crisis deserves an action of equivalent and even greater scale. We stand ready to help in any way we can, as both chambers work diligently on additional measures to mitigate the severe disruptions caused by this virus.

Sincerely,



TJ Cox  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Other Member of Congress Signers

Mike Thompson

Jim Costa

Judy Chu

Jimmy Gomez

Alan Lowenthal

Ami Bera

Tony Cárdenas

Harley Rouda

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